

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) An isolated antibody which binds to at least one isolated  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin cryptic epitope, wherein said epitope has 15 amino acids or less and comprises an amino acid sequence, Pro-Lys-Ile, wherein the isolated antibody is not C21.48.

27. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising at least one antibody according to claim 26.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for diagnosing a patient having HIV, comprising detecting the presence of ~~said cryptic epitope in said patient~~ with an antibody according to claim 26.

29. (Previously Presented) A kit for diagnosing a patient having or at risk of an HIV infection, comprising at least one antibody according to claim 26.

30. (Currently amended) An antibody that binds to at least one isolated cryptic epitope, wherein said epitope is 15 amino acids or less and comprises an amino acid sequence, Pro-Lys-Ile, wherein the isolated antibody is not C21.48.